



## *Florida House of Representatives*

### Democratic Office

*Franklin Sands*  
*Democratic Leader*

*Geraldine F. Thompson*  
*Democratic Leader Pro Tempore*

### **HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MESSAGE POINTS** **Florida Budget Special Session 2009**

Florida House Democrats have presented meaningful solutions to Florida's budget imbalance that are sensitive to Florida's middle class taxpayers, small businesses and vulnerable Floridians.

In a rush to cut and run, Republican leaders curtailed public testimony and voted against even hearing alternatives.

Democrats support responsible adjustments to the state budget---not cuts that will worsen the economy or the plight of struggling Floridians.

Republican leaders are mistaken to proclaim that there's a constitutional obligation to reduce spending. The constitutional responsibility is merely to assure a balanced state budget.

This Legislature has failed to spend time rooting out waste. Rather, Republican leaders raced ahead with painful cuts to public schools and health care programs for seniors, the sick and impoverished families.

Draining Florida's savings accounts to dangerously low levels puts Florida at risk of being able to pay its bills. Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink has warned that we would be better off making sensible reductions to non-essential programs than draining savings accounts.

Raiding the Lawton Chiles Endowment is a penny-wise, pound foolish proposal that will jeopardize the future of our children's health care.

